REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Office Action dated April 28, 2009, within three months. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11-16, and 25-41 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11-16, and 25-41. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

The Examiner provisionally rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11-16, and 25-41 based on non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over certain claims of U.S. Application No. 11/619110, 11/619280, and 11/619290. Applicant would be willing to terminally disclaim to the cited applications if doing so would result in the application being placed in condition for allowance. As such, when the Examiner agrees to allowable claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner re-submit the request for a Terminal Disclaimer based on the pending claims at that time, if the Examiner still believes a Terminal Disclaimer is necessary.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2, 5-6, 11-16, and 25-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The Examiner asserts that certain steps are not tied to a machine or processor. The Examiner also rejects claims 1-2, 5-6, 11-15, and 25-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 because the Examiner asserts that certain automated elements of the claims are not supported in the specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant notes that the paragraph cited by the Examiner ([0070]) starts with "In yet another embodiment," and in the next sentence it states "For example,". As such, Applicant asserts that the disclosure in the cited paragraph is merely one example of how certain aspects of the invention may be implemented. Moreover, in paragraph [0057], the application states "user, e.g., travel agency" which clarifies that the "user" may be an entity or the hardware/software which operates the travel agency. In paragraph [0057], the application states "user (client side)" which again clarifies that the "user" may be a client side computer processor.

Significantly, while the specification may discuss an option for user selection of criteria or that a user is permitted to review and move data, the specification discloses that the assigning/moving is completed automatically by a machine. The specification provides many examples of automatic reconciliation and automatic assigning/moving of a second charge to

<u>department code</u>. Applicant directs the Examiner to various paragraphs below which clearly disclose the automatic <u>assigning of a second charge to department code by a machine</u>.

"Association of certain data may be accomplished through **any data association technique** known and practiced in the art. For example, the association may be accomplished either manually **or <u>automatically</u>**." (paragraph 32) (emphasis added)

"It should be noted that **"moved"** may refer to an **electronic movement** of data from one list or data table to another, or alternatively, may refer to maintaining or establishing a data link." (paragraph 32) (emphasis added)

"Once the match is initially confirmed (all of the basic matching criteria is met) the system **continues the <u>auto</u>-reconciliation process by verifying the presence of the specific data criteria**, if any (step 410). **The specific data criteria is the client defined data**. The system allows the individual client to develop parameters for the user to follow once the basic matching criteria have been met. The client's parameters or factors, may be more or less strict than the basic criteria, however, it is preferable that the basic criteria not be adjusted or waived. **Examples of client-specific data may include** employee I.D., project code, **department code** . . ." (paragraph 60) (emphasis added)

"In some instances or with some clients, **there may not be any specific client defined data**. In these cases, the **transaction is <u>automatically</u> moved** to the Approved Items list for payment processing (step 414)." (paragraph 60) (emphasis added)

"The auto-reconciliation process is unable to match the charge with a corresponding travel transaction because the ticket was voided and therefore no record of the travel transaction was ever loaded into the accounting database. Hence, the charge entry is an unmatched item and moved to the Unresolved Transaction list. At a later time, the offsetting credit for the voided ticket charge **may be loaded into the accounting database and during subsequent <u>auto</u>-<u>reconciliation processes</u>, the system recognizes that the credit corresponds to an item on the Unresolved Items list** (step 510)" (paragraph 65) (emphasis added)

"The client side may include **suitable software to enable** the Billed Transaction Report to be imported into the **client's own accounting system**" (paragraph 75). (emphasis added)

<u>Rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 101</u>

The Examiner also rejects claim 25 as simply a medium having information stored thereon. Applicant respectfully disagrees, but to expedite prosecution, Applicant amends claim 25, based on the Examiner's suggested language.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 11-15, and 25-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vance et al., U.S. Patent No 6,442,526 ("Vance") in view of Dunn, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,134,564 ("Dunn"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this rejection, but to expedite prosecution, and to clarify the patentable features, Applicant amends the claims.

In summary, Dunn may discuss inserting a corresponding record in a second list so that a matched pair in the first and second list result. However, Dunn's system is limited to inserting a monetary amount into the second list that matches the monetary amount of the first list, such that the corresponding identical monetary amounts can be considered a match. In contrast, the presently claimed invention associates a monetary amount ("a second charge") with a non-monetary amount ("wherein said first data relates to non-monetary information") in order to determine which "first charge" that the "second charge" should be associated with. For example, the presently claimed invention **associates a second charge (such as a $100 change fee incurred on September 22, 2008) with first data (such as a September 22, 2008 trip) located in a travel record in a travel database, based solely on the non-monetary data, namely the date data of September 22, 2008 in order to determine that the $100 second charge should be associated with the September 22, 2008 trip which previously incurred a $500 first charge.**

More specifically, the presently claimed invention enables data in a travel record to be matched with charge information in a financial database, wherein the charge information is not recorded in a travel record. The presently claimed invention also performs a first match based on a one-to-one matching of transactions (e.g., the ticket price as recorded in the travel record and the charge amount for purchasing the ticket). However, the presently claimed invention goes well beyond such one-to-one record matching, as disclosed by Dunn, by associating a second charge (which is not reflected in the travel record) with non-monetary data that is in the travel record, and assigning the second charge to a department code. The second charge (which is reflected in the charge record, but not reflected in the travel record) may include, for example, a fee/credit related to a change in the itinerary, an extra baggage fee at the airport, an upgrade fee, a downgrade credit, a travel agent fee and/or the like.

Applicant asserts that the Examiner has not shown that either of the cited references would even be capable of associating a charge card record with a data that does not exist in the financial database, and instead is non-monetary data within a travel record. The simple
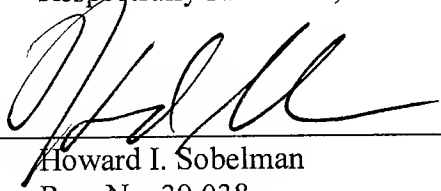
combination of a reference disclosing a travel record with a reference disclosing matching offsetting transactions does not produce a system capable of performing the complex matching steps of the presently claimed invention.

Claims 2, 5, 12-15, and 26-41 variously depend from independent claims 1, 11, and 25, therefore dependent claims 2, 5, 12-15, and 26-41 are differentiated from the cited references for at least the same reasons as set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **19-2814**. Applicant invites the Office to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the present application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: __May 26, 2009__   By:_____

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